

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 586 without my signature.

This bill alters the settlement agreement in the case of *Chapman, et al. v. the California Department of Education, et al.* This bill was intended to codify provisions of the settlement agreement, which was agreed to after extensive negotiations among the parties involved, would have exempted pupils with disabilities who meet specified criteria from the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) graduation requirement for one year. This bill alters significant terms of the agreement, by extending this exemption to two years, failing to require students to avail themselves of remediation, and shifting the focus for granting the exemption from the State Board of Education to local school districts, this bill is inconsistent with the terms of the settlement agreement.

Enacting this bill sends the wrong message to the over 650,000 special education students in our state, the majority of which have the ability to pass the CAHSEE. The small minority of special education students that may need the state to review how the exam impacts them, in the short run, deserve quick action, and not a two year delay.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger